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Alabama Power

the southern electric system

February 15, 1983

Docket No. 50-364

Director, Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Attention: Mr. S. A. Varga

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant - Unit 2
Inadequate Core Cooling Instrumentation
NUREG-0737, Item II.F.2

Gentlemen:

In a letter to the NRC dated January 14, 1981 regarding NUREG-0737, Alabama Power Company described its modification to realign certain thermocouples to the upper head region as a means of indicating upper head voiding during natural circulation. As a part of this description it was stated that two of the 16 thermocouple inputs for the core subcooling meter were upper head thermocouples.

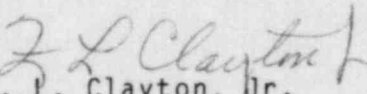
Prior to the maintenance outage in February 1982, one upper head thermocouple provided input to the subcooling monitor for Unit 2. During this outage the second upper head thermocouple was connected to the subcooling monitor. At the subsequent refueling outage during October and November 1982, one upper head thermocouple was disconnected from the subcooling monitor as part of an outage related activity and by mistake was not reconnected. The current installed condition at Farley Nuclear Plant Unit 2 utilizes one upper head thermocouple input to the subcooling monitor; however, four upper head thermocouples provide input to the incore thermocouple panel in the control room. These four thermocouples provide the necessary means of monitoring voids in the reactor upper head. In addition, the generic emergency operating procedure for natural circulation cooldown does not require upper head thermocouples to monitor reactor head voids. During the next outage of sufficient duration but no later than the 2nd refueling outage for Unit 2, Alabama Power Company will implement modifications to provide two upper head thermocouple inputs to the subcooling monitor.

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If you have any questions, please advise.

Yours very truly,


F. L. Clayton, Jr.

FLCJr/JAR:mjh-D34

cc: Mr. R. A. Thomas
Mr. G. F. Trowbridge
Mr. J. P. O'Reilly
Mr. E. A. Reeves
Mr. W. H. Bradford